

SSI PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

1. In December 1998, about 6.5 million persons received federally administered payments. The average monthly payment was \$359.45.
2. Over three fourths (80 percent) of the persons received SSI benefits on the basis of blindness or other disability.
3. Between January 1974 and December 1998, the total number of persons receiving SSI payments more than doubled (from 3.2 million to 6.5 million). The greatest growth was in the disabled caseload which more than tripled (from 1.3 million to 5.1 million) over the 24-year period.
4. More than 887,000 children were receiving SSI in December 1998. This represents a tremendous increase since 1974 when only 70,800 received an SSI payment.
5. More than half (58.6 percent) of the persons receiving SSI benefits were females. Of the aged recipients, 71.8 percent were female.
6. In December 1998, 53.9 percent of the people receiving SSI had no other income. Thirty six percent were receiving a Social Security benefit and 4.5 percent had some type of earned income.
7. Of the people receiving SSI benefits, about 4.5 percent were in some form of institution. Half of these were in a Title XIX institution where Medicaid was paying more than half of the cost. For these recipients, the maximum SSI benefit is \$30 per month.
8. Over 770,000 were suspended in 1997 for at least a 12-month period due to excess income. Over 205,000 died.